



Town of Glastonbury

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Letter of Support For HB 5418, with amendments

March 12, 2010

Environment Committee:

Please favorably report HB 5418, with the following amendments:

- **amend 10-231b(b)(1) by deleting the words: "on and after January 1, 2006 until July 1, 2010"**
- **expand mandated IPM to the grounds of all schools, parks and grounds**

My name is Gregory Foran and I am the Parks Superintendent for the Town of Glastonbury. I am here to support Raised Bill HB 5418, but am asking that you amend it to expand the use of IPM to the middle and elementary schools.

I believe that IPM should be mandated on all parks, schools and buildings as it has a proven track record and has only been further enhanced with the integration of organic inputs. I believe that golf courses should continue to be exempted as the level of care required to manage tees and greens demands a more rigorous program to keep pests in check, particularly diseases.

Relative to the schools, we have had great success in keeping pesticide applications to a minimum, and while many of these applications are seldom used and are done as spot treatments, the inability to utilize them when necessary poses a concern for many practitioners, myself included.

In fact, I am part of a 22 person Ad Hoc Committee formed by the DEP last April which has been meeting to try and draft recommendations to address these concerns. The Committee is comprised of some extraordinarily bright people who are experts in a variety of disciplines including scientists doing research, educators, entomologists, toxicologists, regulators and practitioners of IPM and organic land care methods. Some are private sector business people and some are from municipalities. Everyone on this Committee embraces organic methods as a component of a good IPM program.

I would like to publicly thank the DEP and in particular Brad Robinson of the Pesticide Control unit for bringing everyone together to ferret out the issues of concern and brainstorm solutions to them. It was both humbling and enlightening to experience the breadth of knowledge of the group. We are very close to coming to consensus and finding common ground that would be palatable to all parties on a variety of issues. Drafting some revisions, with viable language, that would allow the least toxic materials when necessary, would keep children safe from any adverse exposure to pesticides and to the detrimental effects of poorly maintained fields. The collective experience of the group along with the intellect and expertise of many individuals has made everyone in the process much more aware of the causes for concern and to the best ways to evaluate and choose the safest materials.


Currently there are several organic and synthetic controls that are extremely low in toxicity and with very specific pest targets available to those maintaining fields, which we will not be able to use beginning July 1st. Some of these materials, like Acelepryn, didn't even exist when the ban

was passed. In other words, science is moving so fast that the ban may be outdated before it even takes effect.

Almost a year has passed since the Ad Hoc Committee began meeting. Everyone who was a part of those meetings has a far better understanding now of the problems with a ban, because there are new materials and a variety of scenarios that could not be foreseen when the legislation was drafted. Ironically, even when we first met last April, there was uniformity in our purpose and it was this – All in attendance agreed that there were some excellent materials available for safe use in the management of grounds that would be eliminated by a ban, to the detriment of the children, the citizen taxpayers and to the fields. A dialogue was needed to separate our differences and document our agreements. That conversation is continuing. I respectfully request that you mandate IPM at all Town parks, schools and buildings and sunset the ban at elementary and middle schools so that we may develop the specifics for a good workable plan that takes into account the discoveries that science offers us and use these gifts for the betterment of children, society and the environment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Gregory A. Foran

Parks Superintendent

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